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REMARKS


The Office Action of November 17, 2006 was received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1 and 5-20 were pending prior to the instant amendment. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 6, 7, 13, 14 and 16-19. Claims 1 and 20 are amended herein, and claim 18 is cancelled. Consequently, claims 1, 5-17, 19 and 20 are currently pending in the instant application.

Claims 1, 5, 8-12, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ling et al. (U.S. 2002/0132077) in view of Takabayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,262,227). Although this rejection continues to be traversed, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 18 (i.e. the thickness range of the flexible heat exchanger) into claims 1 and 20 (independent claims), and claim 18 is cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1, 5-17, 19, and 20 and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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